



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

May 10, 2019

Secretary Laurel M. Lee
Secretary of State
R.A. Gray Building
500 S. Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Secretary Lee:

By the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Florida, under the provisions of Article III, Section 8, of the Constitution of Florida, I do hereby veto and transmit my objections to HB 771, enacted during the 121st Session of the Legislature of Florida, since statehood in 1845, during the Regular Session of 2019 and entitled:

An act relating to Environmental Regulation

HB 771 originally addressed issues with contaminated recyclable materials, but a provision was added that includes a moratorium on local regulation of single-use plastic straws until 2024.

A number of Florida municipalities, including Sanibel, Ft. Myers Beach and Miami Beach, have enacted ordinances prohibiting single-use plastic straws. These measures have not, as far as I can tell, frustrated any state policy or harmed the state's interests. In fact, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection has encouraged Florida residents, schools and businesses to reduce plastic straw use.

Under these circumstances, the State should simply allow local communities to address this issue through the political process. Citizens who oppose plastic straw ordinances can seek recourse by electing people who share their views.

For the reasons stated above, I withhold my approval of HB 771 and do hereby veto the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Ron DeSantis in black ink.

Ron DeSantis
Governor

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

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